

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

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SUBJECT: COMMITTEE OF 24 CONSIDERS EAST TIMOR

1. SUMMARY. FOLLOWING STATEMENTS BY REPRESENTATIVES OF INDONESIA, PORTUGAL AND AUSTRALIA, AS WELL AS A PETITIONER FROM FRETELIN, THE COMMITTEE OF 24 (C-24) DECIDED ON AUGUST 25 TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF EAST TIMOR AT ITS NEXT SESSION (IN 1979). END SUMMARY.

2. AFTER C-24 ACCEPTANCE OF A REQUEST FROM FRETELIN REP JOSE RAMOS-HORTA, DISCUSSION OF EAST TIMOR WAS OPENED AUGUST 25 BY PURBO SUGIARTO SUWONDO, DEPUTY PERMREP OF INDONESIA. HE EXPLAINED THAT EAST TIMOR HAD BEEN INTEGRATED INTO INDONESIA ON 17 JULY 1976 FOLLOWING "EXERCISE OF THE RIGHT OF SELF-DETERMINATION" BY THE PEOPLE. THE PROCESS OF DECOLONIZATION UNDER GA RESOLUTIONS 1514(XV) AND 1541 (XV) HAD BEEN COMPLETED AND C-24 CONSIDERATION OF EAST TIMOR CONSTITUTED INTERFERENCE IN INDONESIA'S INTERNAL AFFAIRS. HE WISHED TO RECORD HIS DELEGATION'S OBJECTION TO THE GRANTING OF A
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HEARING TO RAMOS HORTA.

3. RAMOS-HORTA, A MEMBER OF THE CENTRAL COMMITTEE OF FRETELIN, ATTACKED INDONESIA'S POSITION VIS-A-VIS EAST TIMOR AND URGED THAT INDONESIA BE EXPELLED FROM THE C-24 UNTIL IT COMPLIED WITH RELEVANT GA AND SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTIONS. HE ALLEGED THAT THE WAR IN EAST TIMOR

HAD ENTERED A NEW STAGE AND THAT "AMERICAN MILITARY PERSONNEL PILOTS AS WELL AS SOME MERCENARIES ARE NOW DIRECTLY ENGAGED IN THE WAR." HE APPEALED TO THE US TO CEASE ALL MILITARY ASSISTANCE AND SUPPLY OF ARMS TO INDONESIA, STATING THAT THE WAR IN EAST TIMOR WOULD HAVE BEEN OVER HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR SUCH AID. CITING PRESIDENT SUHARTO'S PROMISE TO OPEN EAST TIMOR TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD, HE URGED THE C-24 TO SEND A VISITING MISSION TO THE TERRITORY. HE ALSO WOULD IN PARTICULAR WELCOME REPS OF THOSE COUNTRIES THAT "HAVE CONSISTENTLY SUPPORTED INDONESIA'S POSITION"--THE US, CHILE AND IRAN.

4. FILIPE DE ALBUQUERQUE OF THE PORTUGUESE MISSION SAID THAT IT WAS "QUITE OBVIOUS" THAT UNDER CONDITIONS DESCRIBED IN THE SECRETARIAT'S WORKING PAPER ON EAST TIMOR (A/AC.109/L.1256), HIS GOVERNMENT COULD NOT FULFILL ITS DUTIES AS ADMINISTERING POWER OR COMPLY WITH ARTICLE 73/E). PORTUGAL COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO CHANGE ITS ATTITUDE OR ACCEPT THE CURRENT JURIDICAL STATUS OF THE TERRITORY UNLESS THE UN CONSIDERS THAT INALIENABLE RIGHTS OF THE PEOPLE HAVE BEEN FULLY RESPECTED. PORTUGAL WAS WILLING TO COOPERATE, HE DECLARED, IN FINDING AN ADEQUATE SOLUTION.

5. AUSTRALIAN AMBASSADOR ANDERSON CONFIRMED HIS GOVERNMENT'S POSITION THAT IT WAS "UNREALISTIC" TO CONTINUE UNCLASSIFIED

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TO REFUSE DE FACTO RECOGNITION OF EAST TIMOR AS PART OF INDONESIA AND NOTED ITS DECISION OF JANUARY 20, 1978 TO THAT EFFECT.

6. SUWONDO NOTED THAT HIS COUNTRY'S POSITION ON EAST TIMOR HAD BEEN EXPLAINED AT LENGTH AT THE 1977 GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND HE HAD NOTHING MORE TO ADD. AS THE DECOLONIZATION PROCESS IN EAST TIMOR HAD BEEN TERMINATED IN JULY 1976, HE HAD NO INTENTION OF RESPONDING TO THE "NONSENSICAL ALLEGATIONS" MADE BY RAMOS-HORTA. HE THEN UPDATED DEVELOPMENTS IN THE TERRITORY, POINTING OUT PROGRESS MADE IN VARIOUS SECTORS.

7. CONCLUDING THE MEETING, THE CHAIRMAN STATED THAT, IN THE ABSENCE OF ANY OBJECTION, THE COMMITTEE DECIDED TO CONTINUE CONSIDERATION OF THE ITEM AT ITS NEXT SESSION (1979) "SUBJECT TO ANY DIRECTION THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY MIGHT GIVE." THE RAPPOREUR WAS ALSO AUTHORIZED TO TRANSMIT ALL AVAILABLE INFORMATION ON THE ITEM TO THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

8. VERBATIM RECORD OF MEETING BEING POUCHED DEPARTMENT

(IO/UNP-TATU) AND OTHER ADDRESSEES.

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